

do, if they are going to carry out this principle and the country is in a position to afford it, will be to increase the pay of the privates as well as the officers. It is quite true it is a very trifling amount, but when we consider that the officer heretofore has been doing duty for \$1 per day and is now to get \$4.87 per day, giving him \$60 instead of \$12, the addition is considerable, and if he should be called out for an additional number of days it will amount in the aggregate to a large sum. I do not wish it to be considered that I am finding fault, because I know these gentlemen have done a great deal of work in the interests of the country for a small amount of pay. True, they have more honor and credit, and the hon. Minister of Militia the other day paid them a high compliment in his speech when introducing the Bill. I think they might be allowed to continue to do a little more work in the interests of the country for the honor and receive the same pay as the men in the ranks are only to receive 50 cts. a day. If the hon. Minister can do so, I hope when he gets through the Estimates he will make up his mind to add \$20,000 to the Militia grant and divide it among the men as well. It is very easy for the hon. Minister to make himself popular by being able to increase the pay of all the officers and the officers connected with the Department. I could have done so when we were in power, but we were restricted for money and had to curtail in every respect, and I find the expenditure the last year I had the honor of filling the position the hon. gentleman now holds was \$550,000 compared with \$751,000 last year, and this year there is an additional expenditure. If the country can afford it, well and good; but let us understand, at all events, who is to receive the money, if it is to go into the pockets of the officers and not of the men.

Mr. THOMPSON. I look upon this question possibly in a different light from some hon. gentlemen. I do not consider it a political question, but rather one of a national nature, one in which we are called upon to furnish means for the defence of our country in case of need. The pay that is allowed to the officers seems to be large, yet it must be borne in mind that a large amount is expended by them in keeping up the force. While thankful for the increase of 10 cts. per day to the men, I would impress upon the Minister, if possible, to increase that, and we can do so by reducing the number of men that are to be drilled annually, and in that way we would have a more effective force. As regards the promises made previous to the Elections, referred to by my hon. friend from West Lambton, Tory promises are not always to be relied upon; and in questions of this kind, I fancy they have gone as far, probably, as our friends did when they were in power. But two wrongs do not make a right. We are discussing the Militia question, and we want to make it as effective as possible, and with due regard to some encouragement to the men who form the rank and file of the various corps. When we are called upon to go to camp every second year, it is sometimes with great difficulty that rural battalions are filled. I venture to say that some of these men, if they were called upon for active service, or to be inspected, many of them would be ordered to withdraw from the ranks on account of their physical inability. If you want an effective force it ought to be reduced, and drilled annually and paid better. I trust the hon. Minister will give this matter every consideration and try to extend to the rank and file of the volunteer force, that justice to which they are entitled.

Mr. OUIMET. I agree with the hon. member for Haldimand (Mr. Thompson), that this Parliament ought not to begrudge to the Militia the very small amount we pay them. I say small amount, because if you add to the three quarters of a million the expenses of the Department it brings the amount to nearly \$800,000, and of that sum only

about \$25,000 goes to the Militia. I look upon the Militia of a country, not precisely as a necessity, because I do not think our Militia are likely to be called upon to defend our country against an invading force for many years to come; but I look upon the Militia as a national institution the promotion of which is the best means of creating among our population a national feeling, a real Canadian feeling. When several regiments meet together in a review I think the men are proud of themselves, it makes emulation among them, and it is flattering to them to realize that they constitute an ornament and a protection to the nation, I congratulate the Minister of Militia on the few thousands he spends to have reviews of the city corps. City corps cannot be treated in the same way as rural corps. A city corps cannot, as a rule, go into camp, because the men who compose a city corps cannot leave their employment for a fortnight without exposing themselves to severe loss. They give a good deal of time for the annual drills and to prepare themselves for the reviews on our national fête days. We have seen them parading on the last reviews, and I think they did credit to themselves and to the Militia force. I know the rural corps are deserving of great credit too, but they are not so readily available as the city corps. For instance, if the Militia were to be called out in a case of emergency, as in a case of riot, it would be very easy in twenty-four hours to gather at least 1,500 or 2,000 men of our city corps, while it would take several days to assemble a rural corps, whose companies are generally spread over a large territory. I would, therefore, be disposed to agree with hon. members who have recommended that an increase of pay should be given to the volunteers for each additional year of service. I think this expense would be quite justifiable, and while we are voting this money, I am surprised to see that there was no increase of pay granted to Deputy Adjutants-General. These officers receive only \$1,200 a year, while it is proposed to give first-class clerks in the Department over \$2,000. I would ask the hon. Minister of Militia if he considers that a Deputy Adjutant-General, who has occupied a high rank in the regular army, should not receive as much as these clerks in the Departments. I do not mean to depreciate the services rendered by these clerks, but I mean to say that Deputy Adjutants-General, who are presumed to be qualified for the position, ought to earn enough to keep their families alive, because I really think that \$1,200 for a man in the position that a Deputy Adjutant-General is supposed to occupy in a city, is too small a sum for his services. I am really sorry that in this schedule no increase of salary has been provided for these officers, nor for the Brigade Majors. I do not think that our constituents will ever blame us for encouraging the Militia, as a rule. I would be in favor of encouraging it more than we have done in the past. For my part, I would be disposed to curtail the amount that is allowed our standing army or nucleus of an army, and to increase the pay to the militiamen.

Mr. SPROULE. The hon. member for Laval, in advocating an increase to the men in the city, says they cannot leave their work, and because they are holding important positions. Every man who is following his daily avocation holds, what is to him, an important position. I do not think that is any argument at all. There is one peculiarity in reference to the demand for increased pay to the officers, and that is that almost every member in this House who supports it appears to be an officer himself. It is only like men speaking for themselves. I believe that the men who must be depended upon, speaking generally, come from the rural districts, and that they make up the great force of an army. I am not one of those who believe that they cannot be brought into the field on short notice. The hon. member for Laval (Mr. Ouimet) has stated that city corps can be brought into the field in twenty-four hours. Our experience at the time of the Fenian raid was that it did not take